

















**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™**  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

## New Mexico

This outline describes major sources of information about families from New Mexico. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

### RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has some of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include:

- Spanish censuses, correspondence, and court, land, military, and probate records of 1621 to 1821.
- Mexican censuses, correspondence, and court, land, military, and probate records of 1821 to 1846.
- Catholic church records.
- Histories.
- Land and property, military, and Native American records.

The Family History Library has not acquired records available at New Mexico county courthouses.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

### FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ found at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

**UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS**  
**NEW MEXICO - CENSUS**  
**NEW MEXICO, LEA - HISTORY**  
**NEW MEXICO, LEA, HOBBS - CHURCH RECORDS**

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

**UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS**  
**NEW MEXICO - CENSUS**  
**NEW MEXICO, LEA - HISTORY**  
**NEW MEXICO, LEA, HOBBS - CHURCH RECORDS**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

### ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- New Mexico Records Center and Archives  
404 Montezuma  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-2501  
Telephone: 505-827-7332  
Fax: 505-827-7331
- National Archives—Southwest Region (Fort Worth)  
501 West Felix Street - Building 1 dock 1  
Fort Worth, TX 76115-0216  
Telephone: 817-334-5525  
Fax: 817-334-5621
- *Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 6216  
Fort Worth, TX 76115-0216
- New Mexico Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 8283  
Albuquerque, NM 87198-8283  
Telephone: 505-828-2514

- Historical Society of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 1912  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
Telephone: 505-827-7332  
Fax: 505-827-7331

- Albuquerque Public Library  
501 Copper Ave. N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Telephone: 505-768-5100  
Fax: 505-768-5191

- New Mexico State Library  
325 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-2777  
Telephone: 505-827-3800  
Fax: 505-827-3888

US/CAN  
REF AREA  
973  
D274  
V. 2  
COPY 19

- University of New Mexico Library  
Special Collections  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Telephone: 505-277-4241  
Fax: 505-277-6019

A historical account and description of records from the Spanish and Mexican periods is Henry P. Beers, *Spanish and Mexican Records of the American Southwest: A Bibliographic Guide to Archive and Manuscript Sources* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1979; FHL book 973 A3bh).

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of New Mexico counties, use the 15 inventories of the county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. These inventories are available at the Family History Library.

### Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive E-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from New Mexico in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb  
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>  
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>  
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

### FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch, a collection of computer files containing several million names, is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

### BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have collected some Bible records for New Mexico families. These are available at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. and at the Family History Library (FHL film 860340).

### BIOGRAPHY

The best collection of published biographies in New Mexico is at the New Mexico State Library. The Family History Library has some biographies. Representative biographical encyclopedias are:

*An Illustrated History of New Mexico and Biographical Mention of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Citizens of Today.* . . . Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1895. (FHL film 1000217.)

Chavez, Fray Angelico. *Origins of New Mexico Families in the Spanish Colonial Period.* . . . 1954. Reprint, Albuquerque: The University of Albuquerque, 1973. (FHL book 978.9 D2c 1973.) This pertains to the period from 1598 to 1821.

Coan, Charles F. *A History of New Mexico . . . Historical and Biographical.* 3 vols. Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1925. (FHL film 1000220.) Volumes 2 and 3 are biographical.

*History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People.* 2 vols. Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Co., 1907. (FHL book 978.9 H2h; vol. 1 on film 844902; vol. 2 on film 1000217 item 2.)



## CEMETERIES

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There is no major statewide collection or index of cemetery transcripts for New Mexico. Some tombstone inscriptions have been published in periodicals. The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* contains some tombstone inscriptions from New Mexico. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. See the *United States Research Outline* for further suggestions on locating cemetery records.

## CENSUS

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### Federal

Many of the federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of New Mexico from 1850 to 1920 and a special 1885 territorial census. The 1890 census was destroyed but the 1890 Union veterans schedule and index are available at the National Archives and at the Family History Library.

The Family History Library has statewide indexes for the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses in book format. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

The New Mexico State Historical Society in Santa Fe has mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, and 1870. These records are not at the Family History Library.

### Spanish and Mexican Colonial Censuses

Spanish and Mexican colonial censuses exist for 1750, 1790, 1802, 1816, 1822, 1823, 1826, 1827, 1830 and 1845. The colonial censuses include the wife's maiden name. These censuses are incomplete and do not include all families in New Mexico.

The colonial censuses are available at the New Mexico Records Center and Archives, the University of New Mexico Library, and the Family History Library. They have been transcribed and indexed in:

Olmsted, Virginia L. *Spanish and Mexican Colonial Censuses of New Mexico: 1790, 1823, 1845*. Albuquerque: New Mexico Genealogical Society, 1975. (FHL book 978.9 X2o.)

Olmsted, Virginia L. *Spanish and Mexican Censuses of New Mexico: 1750-1830*. Albuquerque: New Mexico Genealogical Society, 1981. (FHL book 978.9 X2ov 1750-1830.)

## CHURCH RECORDS

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Prior to 1900 the largest religious group in New Mexico was the Roman Catholic Church. Other churches represented in New Mexico include the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Christian.

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of Roman Catholic Church records from 1694 to 1957 for the areas served by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and the Diocese of Las Cruces.

From 1678 to 1869 the Catholic Church investigated the blood relationship of couples before they were allowed to marry. Some genealogical information in the records of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has been extracted and published in Angelico Chavez, *New Mexico Roots LTD: A Demographic Perspective from Genealogical, Historical, and Geographical Data Found in the Diligencias Matrimoniales or Pre-nuptial Investigations (1678-1869)*, 11 vols. (N.p., 1982; FHL book 978.9 D2ca; fiche 6051367). This source lists the names of the bride and groom, the date of marriage, and the parents' names.

Several histories of the Catholic missions and of early churchmen have been published, such as Francisco A. Domínguez, *The Missions of New Mexico, 1776* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1956; FHL book 978.9 K2d).

You can write to the following addresses for further information about Roman Catholic records:

Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
4000 St. Joseph Place N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87120  
Telephone: 505-831-8100  
Fax: 505-831-8345

Diocese of Gallup  
711 S. Puerco Dr.  
Gallup, NM 87301  
Telephone: 505-863-4406  
Fax: 505-722-9131

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 1338  
Gallup, NM 87301

Diocese of Las Cruces  
1280 Med Park  
Las Cruces, NM 88004  
Telephone: 505-523-7577  
Fax: 505-524-3874

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 16318  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

To locate church records see *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in New Mexico, 1940* (Albuquerque: New Mexico Historical Records Survey, 1940; FHL book 978.9 K24n; fiche 6051186).

## COURT RECORDS

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Major New Mexico courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

- 1598- The *Alcalde Ordinario* (mayor's courts) and  
1847 *Audiencia* (courts of appeals) were statewide courts in Mexico that handled civil and criminal cases. During several periods New Mexico was under the jurisdiction of courts in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Durango, Chihuahua, and Parral. A few existing records are in the New Mexico Records Center and Archives, or in various archives in Mexico.
- 1846- *Prefect's court was a statewide court that*  
1850 handled civil and criminal cases.
- 1846- *Circuit courts* were countywide courts  
1850 established during the military government of New Mexico to handle civil and criminal cases.
- 1850- *District courts* are districtwide courts that  
pres. serve as the major trial courts and have jurisdiction over naturalization records, civil cases including tax and insanity matters, criminal cases, chancery cases, and some appeals.
- 1800s- *Magistrates courts* are citywide courts with  
pres. jurisdiction over some misdemeanors and minor civil matters.

The Family History Library does not have copies of New Mexico court records. You can obtain copies from the various county courthouses or the New Mexico Records Center and Archives where the territorial records are housed.

More information about court records is in E. Stuart Howard, *Preliminary Inventory: Records of the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico: Record group 21* (Denver: Federal Archives and Records Center, 1980; FHL book 978.9 A1 no. 62).

## DIRECTORIES

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Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in New Mexico. For example, the Family History Library has directories for:

- Albuquerque

1883 . . . . . FHL film 1303032  
1905/06-1935 . . . . FHL films 1843249-55  
1923, 1940, 1960, 1965,  
and 1970 . . . . . FHL book 978.961/A1 E4h

- Santa Fe  
1940, 1960, 1968,  
and 1983 . . . . . FHL book 978.956/S1 E4h

The Museum of New Mexico History Library has a good collection of city directories.

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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The earliest non-Indian settlers of New Mexico were the 130 Hispanic families who came into the upper Rio Grande Valley in 1598. At the time of the Pueblo revolt of 1680, the New Mexico Spanish population was about 2,500. By 1817, just before Mexican independence, the Spanish population of New Mexico had reached 27,000.

After the United States took control in 1848, immigrants from Mexico settled in the north central part of the state. In the 1900s there has been a heavy Hispanic emigration to other states, especially California.

The influx of Anglo-Americans first began about 1850, when the Santa Fe Trail was used by many on their way to the California gold fields. The eastern third of New Mexico was settled after the Civil War by Protestants from Texas. The southwestern corner attracted miners from other states after the coming of the railroads in the 1880s. Colorado ranchers and Mormon colonists (after 1876) settled the San Juan Valley in the northwest corner of the state.

There has been no port of entry common to settlers of New Mexico. For information on passenger lists, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972). The first laws restricting immigration across the Mexican border were enacted in 1903. Records of Mexican border crossings from about 1903 to the mid-1900s are located at the National Archives.

Records of a few ethnic groups such as Italians and Hispanic-Americans are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under NEW MEXICO - MINORITIES. Many records of American Indians are listed under the same heading. Also see the "Native Races" section of this outline.

## GAZETTEERS

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Several useful gazetteers of New Mexico have been published. One of the most helpful is T. M. Pearce, *New Mexico Place Names: A Geographical*



## GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Some notable genealogical collections are:

*The Pioneers Foundation Collection.* This collection of 520 oral interviews about caucasian families of southwest New Mexico is in the Special Collections Room of the University of New Mexico Library. The tape recordings are restricted to members of the family, but photocopies of the index and transcripts of the interviews can be obtained for a fee.

*Family Group Records: Collected and Compiled by the former Spanish-American Mission.* This is a collection of family group sheets showing the ancestry of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the southwest. It is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL Latin America films 940001-6) and the originals are interfiled with the patron section of the Family Group Records Collection.

*Guide to the Microfilm of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico 1621-1821.* This is a collection of official records in Spanish for 1621 to 1821. They include censuses, petitions, military correspondence, journals, civil and criminal cases, legislative records, and an index in English. The originals are at the New Mexico Records Center and Archives. The records center published a guide book that explains the contents of these records (FHL book 978.9 A5na; film 928111 item 3).

The State of New Mexico published in 1968 a detailed guide, [*Calendar of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico 1621-1821*] (FHL book 978.9 A3nm; film 908040 item 5). This book was republished in 1987 with the addition of microfilm roll 23 (FHL book 978.9A3nm 1987). The collection is also available on microfilm at the Museum of New Mexico History Library and at the Family History Library (FHL films 581463-78). It is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under NEW MEXICO - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES. These records are abstracted and indexed in Ralph E. Twitchell, *The Spanish Archives of New Mexico*, 2 vols. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Torch Press, 1914 (FHL book 978.9A3t; film 845276 item 1-2). Vol. 1 deals with the Surveyor General's records. Vol. 2 contains the other records.

*Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Mexican Archives of New Mexico.* These are the records of the Mexican government for 1821 to 1846. They are

located at the New Mexico Records Center and Archives. The Family History Library has a guide to the collection (FHL book 978.9 A3nb; film 962163 item 4). There is also a detailed calendar of the documents (FHL book 978.9 A3nn; film 962164 item 1).

*Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection.* This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available at the Family History Library (FHL films 860340-41 and 870179 item 2).

## HISTORY

The following important events in the history of New Mexico affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

- 1598 San Juan was founded as the first permanent Spanish colony in New Mexico. The capital was established at Santa Fe in 1610.
- 1680- The Pueblo Indians revolted and drove the  
1700 Spanish out of northern New Mexico to El Paso. By 1700 the Spanish reestablished control.
- 1706 Albuquerque was founded and became a center of settlement.
- 1821 When Mexico achieved independence from Spain, New Mexico became a Mexican province, and trade with the United States was opened over the Santa Fe Trail.
- 1848 Mexico ceded New Mexico to the United States. The Santa Fe Trail soon became a favorite route of those heading to the California gold fields.
- 1850- Congress created the New Mexico Territory  
1863 in 1850 and the first counties were established. The territory was enlarged somewhat with the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico in 1853, but greatly reduced by the creation of Colorado Territory in 1861 and Arizona Territory in 1863.
- 1880- The coming of the railroad stimulated  
1904 settlement in eastern and southern New Mexico. Conflicting land claims led to disputes among ranchers, homesteaders, and the old Spanish families. The claims were finally settled in 1904.
- 1912 New Mexico became a state.

A useful source for studying the history of New Mexico is Ralph E. Twitchell, *The Leading Facts of*

*New Mexico History*, 5 vols. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Torch Press, 1911-1917; FHL book 978.9 H2t; film 1000218). This includes many biographies; each volume is indexed.

Many articles and books on New Mexico local history are listed in Frances Leon Swadesh, *20,000 Years of History: A New Mexico Bibliography* (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 1973; FHL book 978.9 A3s).

The University of New Mexico Library and the Museum of New Mexico Library have good collections of local histories.

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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### Spanish and Mexican Grants

The first land grants in New Mexico were given by Spain and Mexico. When the United States acquired the area in 1848, they agreed to recognize these claims relating to Spanish and Mexican grants. The claims were processed by the U.S. Surveyor General from 1855 to 1890, and by the U. S. Court of Private Land Claims from 1891 to 1903.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the following records of claims. These are located at the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Federal Building, 1474 Rodeo Rd., P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115, Telephone: 505-438-7450, Fax: 505-438-7452.

- *Miscellaneous Archives Relating to New Mexico Land Grants, 1695-1842*. These are in Spanish. (FHL films 1016947-48; use Donaciano Vigil's index for 1681 to 1846 on film 1016949.)
- *Records of land titles, 1847-1852*. Kept by the Secretary of the Territory. (FHL film 1016950.)
- *Record of private land claims adjudicated by the U.S. Surveyor General, 1855-1890*. These are indexed and written in English and Spanish. (FHL films 1016950-74 items 2-4.)
- *Letters received, 1854 to 1892 from the New Mexico Territory*. (FHL films 1017566-67; an index is included.)
- *Private land claims adjudicated by the U.S. Court of Private Land Claims, 1891-1903*. (FHL films 1016975-96.) The first film has a list of the cases.
- *Twitchell Archives, 1685-1898*. These are records compiled by Ralph E. Twitchell, including land disputes, appeals, grants, wills, mine claims, and judgments, in English and Spanish. They are records of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. (FHL films 1016940-45.)

For further information about Spanish and Mexican grants, see the Beers book listed under "Archives and Libraries."

### U.S. Public Domain Grants

Various laws provided for the distribution of unclaimed land in the public domain:

- The pre-emption law, passed by Congress in 1841, applied to New Mexico when it became a territory. Under this law, a head of a family (including a widow) could stake a claim and buy it from the government.
- The Donation Act of 1854 granted free land to settlers. Persons claiming Spanish or Mexican land grants were not eligible.
- The Homestead Act of 1862 gave free land to settlers who lived on the land for five years or who purchased it within six months of filing a claim for it.
- Land was also available through timber-culture grants, soldiers' and sailors' homesteads, mining grants, coal grants, desert grants, railroad grants, and education grants.

The land was distributed through land offices. The first general land office was established in 1858 at Santa Fe. The land entry case files, indexes to pre-1908 patents, and original tract books and township plats of the general land offices are at the National Archives. Land records of the Santa Fe office are at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver). The patents and copies of the tract books and township plats are at the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Federal Building, 1474 Rodeo Rd., P. O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115, Telephone: 505-438-7450, Fax: 505-438-7452.

Further information on the donation, homestead, and other acts affecting land records is in Victor Westphall, *The Public Domain in New Mexico, 1854-1891* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1965; FHL book 978.9 R2w).

### County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent records, including deeds and mortgages, were recorded by the county clerk. The Family History Library does not have copies of the deeds or other property records available in each county. You can obtain copies by contacting the county clerk's office.

## MAPS

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A helpful statewide atlas is Warren A. Beck, and Ynez D. Haase, *Historical Atlas of New Mexico* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969; FHL book 978.9 E3b).



The Family History Library has a small collection of maps, including maps of ghost towns and early trading posts. The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque has a fine collection of maps and atlases at the Zimmerman Library.

## MILITARY RECORDS

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The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records.

The New Mexico Records Center and Archives has muster rolls, cemetery records, and files of the Adjutant General's office from 1848 to 1945. The following sources are also very helpful.

### Spanish Service Records

Valuable records of those who served in the military in New Spain from 1786 to 1800 are at the General Archives in Simancas, Spain, and on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 1156334-42, for index see FHL Europe book 946 M23e). You will also find military information in the *Spanish Archives of New Mexico and the Mexican Archives of New Mexico* (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).

### Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library and the National Archives have an index to service records of Union soldiers who served in units from New Mexico (FHL films 821883-86), the service records (FHL films 471538-83), and the federal indexes to pensioners. The actual pension records are only available at the National Archives.

A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War. The returns for New Mexico are on FHL film 338203. A published index is available (FHL book 978.9x22jv 1890).

### Indian Wars (1862-1898)

Many soldiers from throughout the United States served in the western states during the Indian Wars. Enlistment registers, pension records, and service records for this war are described in the *United States Research Outline*. The Family History Library has miscellaneous records and some muster rolls from the Adjutant Generals' Office in New Mexico for 1862 to 1898 (FHL films 016612-13).

### Spanish-American War (1898)

Names of soldiers who served in Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders from New Mexico are listed in *History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People*, vol.1 (Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Co., 1907; FHL book 978.9 H2h; film 844902, vol. 1)

### World War I (1917-1918)

A published roster of soldiers who died in the war is W. M. Haulsee, F. C. Howe, and A. C. Doyle, *Soldiers of the Great War*, 3 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Publishing Association, 1920; FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244). Volume 2 contains the New Mexico returns.

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for New Mexico, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *New Mexico, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1711857.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For copies of the maps see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

## NATIVE RACES

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The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs records of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, land allotments and homesteads, and school records and reports. The records were created between 1878 and 1944 at the Eastern Navajo, Jicarilla, Pueblos, Zuni, and other agencies. The original records are located at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver).

Records and information about the various tribes are also listed in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the tribe.

## NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

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The *Spanish Archives* and the *Mexican Archives* contain naturalization records for the years that Spain and Mexico governed the area. These are described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. The *Mexican Archives* also has some naturalization papers from the 1870s to 1912.

For records after 1850 also contact the county clerk or the clerk of the nearest district court of New Mexico. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records. Declarations and petitions filed between 1882 and 1917 in the seven U.S. judicial district courts for the Territory of New Mexico are at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver).

For additional records after September 1906, contact the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

## NEWSPAPERS

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The New Mexico Records Center and Archives and the New Mexico Museum of History Library have excellent collections of newspapers dating from the 1860s. The Family History Library has newspapers for some towns, including Albuquerque from about 1870 to 1899 and Santa Fe.

The following guides can help you locate New Mexico newspapers:

Grove, Pearce S. *New Mexico Newspapers: A Comprehensive Guide to Bibliographical Entries and Locations*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1975. (FHL book 978.9 B33g; fiche 6046704.)

Stratton, Porter A. *The Territorial Press of New Mexico, 1834-1912*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, [1969]. (FHL book 978.9 B3s; film 896539.)

## PERIODICALS

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A helpful periodical for New Mexico research is *New Mexico Genealogist*, 1962—(published by the New Mexico Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 8283, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8283; FHL book 978.9 B2n; vols. 1-13 on film 982500 items 2-7, vols. 14-16 on fiche 6049490-92).

## PROBATE RECORDS

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The *Spanish Archives* and the *Mexican Archives* contain probate records for the Spanish and Mexican periods (see the "Genealogy" section).

In the 1840s and 1850s, prefect courts and probate courts kept records of the disposition of estates. Probate records from the 1850s to 1912 are in the records of the U.S. judicial district courts for the Territory of New Mexico at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver).

Since statehood in 1912, probate matters have been under the jurisdiction of probate courts in each county. Records of guardianship and adoption have usually been transferred to the district courts. In 1953 the district courts were given concurrent jurisdiction with the probate court over all probate matters in each county.

The Family History Library does not have copies of the county probate records. They are available at each county courthouse. You can obtain copies by contacting the county clerk.

Further explanation of the records and laws dealing with probate affairs in the state is in Arie Poldervaart, *New Mexico Probate Manual* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1961; FHL book 978.9 P2p).

## VITAL RECORDS

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### Birth and Death Records

In 1907 each county was required to keep birth and death records. Records dating from the 1880s are available for a few counties. All of these records have been sent to the Vital Statistics Bureau (address below).

Statewide registration of vital statistics began in 1920 and was generally complied with by 1930. Delayed registrations of births are also available from 1935. You can obtain birth and death certificates by writing to:

Vital Statistics Bureau  
New Mexico Health Services  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Telephone: 505-827-2338  
Fax: 505-984-1048

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, MD.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History



Library and at many Family History Centers. You must have written authorization from the family in order to obtain a copy of a birth or death certificate. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

### Marriage and Divorce Records

Marriage records were usually kept from the date each county was organized. You can obtain copies of the records from the clerk's office in the county where the marriage was performed.

Marriage records for Bernalillo, Chavez, Eddy, San Juan, Otero, Quay, Roosevelt, and Curry counties for 1880 to 1920 have been published in *Some Marriage Records of the State of New Mexico*, (ca. 1880-1920) 2 vols. (N.p.: New Mexico DAR, 1971-1973; FHL book 978.9 V25d; vol. 1 on film 908289 and vol. 2 on 908026 item 4).

Divorce records are available only from the clerk of the district court in the county where the decree was granted.

### Inventory of Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and availability of vital records in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in New Mexico* (Albuquerque: Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 978.9 V2h; film 874077 item 7; fiche 6051288).

## FOR FURTHER READING

For more detailed information about research and records in New Mexico, see:

Barnes, Thomas C. et al. *Northern New Spain: A Research Guide*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1981. (FHL book 973 H27ba.) This book describes the jurisdictions and documents of the government and the Roman Catholic Church. It also includes information on archives, maps, handwriting, and terminology.

Spiros, Joyce V. H. *Handy Genealogical Guide to New Mexico*. Gallup, New Mexico: Verlone Publishing, 1981. (FHL book 978.9 D27s; fiche 6051310.) This book describes the history, records, and archives of each county.

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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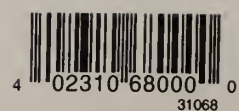
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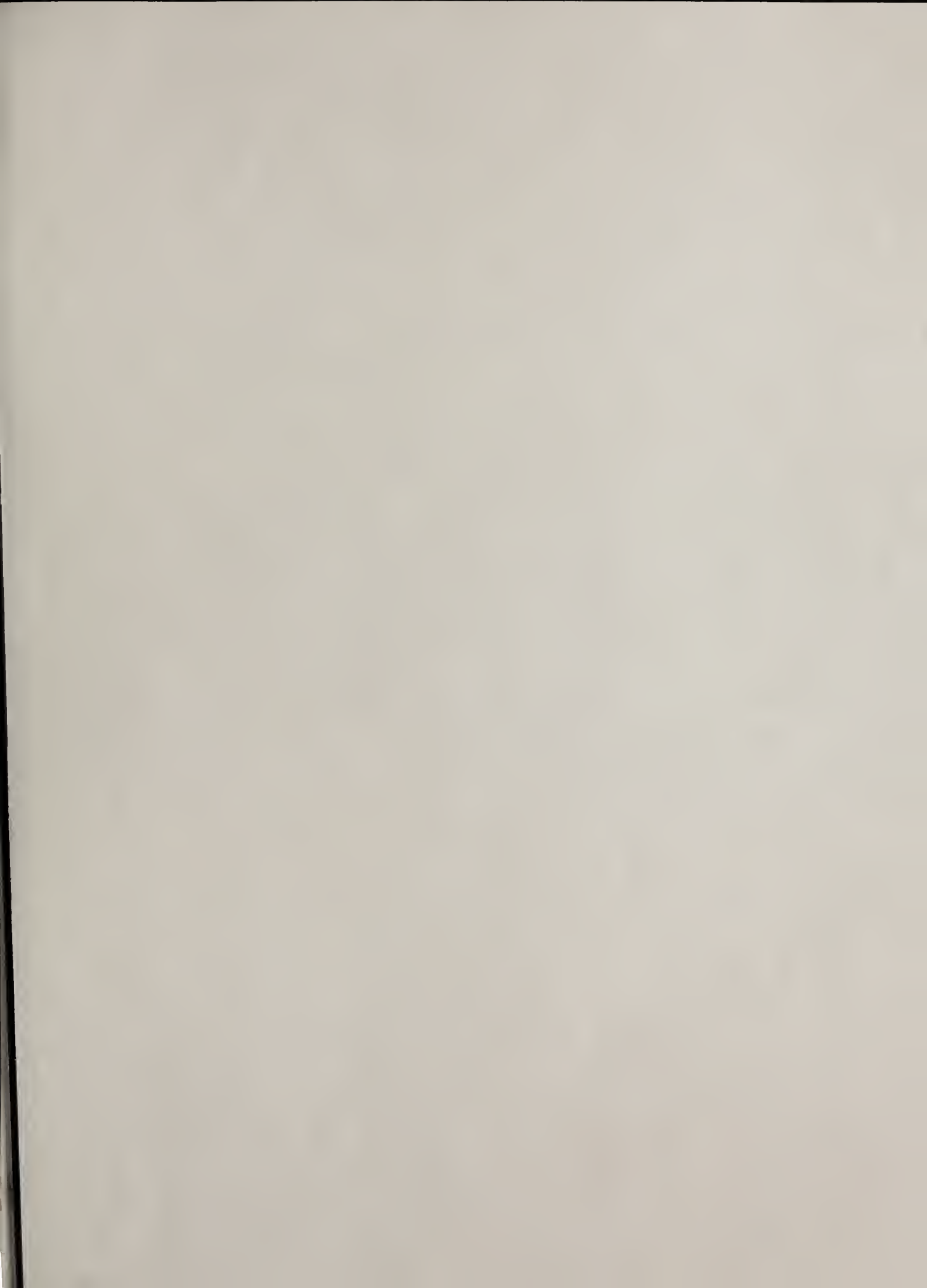
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